

Besides which, sooner or later driving'll get you —
any way you go's a Vegas gamble.
Amtrak's tracks are full of lethal twists.
You take a plane and either you crash or whammo —
get gunned down by a bunch of terrorists.

THE ODD COUPLE

They kept that place a picture
from Sunset magazine —
birds of paradise,
lawn a velvet green

and never any trouble —
we've had cops around
to parties on the block —
they didn't make a sound

except sometimes some music
classical, not rock —
then when the big one died,
the other still in shock,

here comes the family —
sells everything they can,
dishes, silver, sofas
out there on the grass

and that poor man kept crying —
"Some of this is mine."
I bought a chair myself
and gave it back to him.

Now it's more rundown,
loud voices in the air,
tan splotches on the lawn —
normal people there.

— Harold Witt

Orinda CA